

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-12 and 15-29 are currently active.

Claims 2-4 have been canceled.

Claims 18-29 have been added. Antecedent support for Claims 18 and 20-29 are found in Claims 1-11, and for Claim 19 is found on page 10, lines 25-30 of the original specification.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 12 as being unpatentable over Laubach in view of Lentz. The Examiner has rejected Claims 2 and 3 as being unpatentable over Laubach and Lentz and Heddes. In view of the amendments to the claims, applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 4-11, 13 and 15-17 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1, as amended, is Claim 4 rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Similarly,

Claim 12 is Claim 13 rewritten as such. Accordingly, it is submitted that Claims 1 and 5-12 and 15-17 are now allowable.

Newly added Claim 18 has the limitation of "a plurality of fabrics, each of which is connected to the port card through the network to send and receive stripes of fragments of a packet to or from the port card, the port card, fabrics and network have a plurality of modes of operation". It is respectfully submitted that the applied art of record does not teach or suggest this limitation. In regard to Laubach, and the rejection of Claim 1 (before amendment), the Examiner on page 2 of the Office Action states that the "common ATM switch" of figure 3 of Laubach constitutes a fabric connected to the port card. As shown in figure 3, there is but a single "common ATM switch" so the architecture of Laubach fails to meet the limitation of a plurality of fabrics connected to a port card of a switch.

In addition, the Examiner states on page 2 of the Office Action that column 8, lines 53-55 meet the limitation of "stripes of fragments of packets". Reference to column 8, lines 53-55 of Laubach simply states that packet data arriving from an outside source are input via line 401 to ATM Network Interface 402 which converts them into ATM cells. It is respectfully submitted that this teaching has nothing to do with the limitation of "stripes of fragments of a packet" found in Claim 18. There is no teaching that a port card sends and receives stripes of fragments of a packet to each of the fabrics. Furthermore, "stripes of

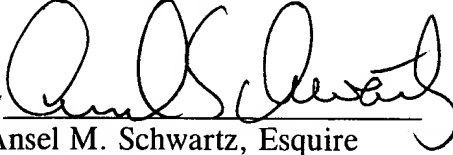
fragments" is a very specific definition to one skilled in the art to which Examiner cannot ignore.

As the originally filed specification states on page 10, beginning on line 25, in the switch architecture, all data is preferably distributed evenly across all fabrics so the switch adds bandwidth by adding fabrics and the fabric need not increase its bandwidth capacity as a switch increases bandwidth capacity. What is key is the data is distributed evenly. That is, the data is not duplicated and 10 exact copies of the original received data is for instance sent to 10 fabrics, but the data or packet that is received is fragmented into 10 different parts, if there are 10 different fabrics, and the fragments are sent as stripes to the fabrics. To one skilled in the art, it is second nature that when RAID techniques are identified, stripping of fragments of packets will be known in the general sense. Where the novelty and uniqueness begins in regard to the claimed invention is its application to a switching environment regarding packets, where RAID techniques are commonly used in the prior art with respect to video servers. Accordingly, "striping" and "stripes of fragments" has a very specific definition and the applied art of record does not teach or suggest this limitation in regard to the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejections and objections to this application be reconsidered and withdrawn, and Claims 1, 5-12 and 15-29, now in this application be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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